REMARKS

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The Notice of Allowance dated August 10, 2006, in which claims 28-38 and 40-54 were allowed, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to claims 28-38 and 40-54, new claim 55, and the following remarks are submitted.

Claims 28-38 and 40-54 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention, and new claim 55 is added corresponding to allowed claim 35 but reciting "means-plus-function" recitations. Applicants are grateful for the indication that the previous claims were in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of claims 28-38 and 40-54 and the addition of new claim 55, do not alter the scope of the previously allowed claims, and were made in an effort to more clearly define and protect the Applicants' invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments were not made in view of any prior art, and that the claims should continue to be in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added. Claims 28-38 and 40-55 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia M. Choi

Registration No. 46,621

Customer No. 32294 SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP 14TH Floor

8000 Towers Crescent Drive

Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700

Telephone: 703-720-7800

Fax: 703-720-7802

AMC:jkm

Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Information Disclosure Statement

Check No. <u>15258</u>